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Joint Inspection Unit

Evaluation of mainstreaming of full and productive employment and decent work by the United Nations system organizations

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Evaluation of mainstreaming of full and productive employment and decent work by the United Nations system organizations" (see A/70/678).

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Summary

In its report entitled "Evaluation of mainstreaming of full and productive employment and decent work by the United Nations system organizations" (see A/70/678), the Joint Inspection Unit assessed the extent to which United Nations system organizations, in response to calls by member States, had mainstreamed decent-work principles into their strategic plans, and identified mechanisms as well as barriers to implementation.

The present note reflects the views of organizations of the United Nations system on the recommendations provided in the report. The views have been consolidated on the basis of inputs provided by member organizations of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, which welcomed the report and supported some of its conclusions.

I. Introduction

1. In its report entitled "Evaluation of mainstreaming of full and productive employment and decent work by the United Nations system organizations" (see A/70/678), the Joint Inspection Unit assessed the extent to which United Nations system organizations, in response to calls by member States, had mainstreamed decent-work principles into their strategic plans, and identified mechanisms as well as barriers to implementation.

II. General comments

2. United Nations system organizations welcomed the report and the findings of the Joint Inspection Unit review. Organizations noted that decent work and full employment would continue to be a global and national priority, with goals associated with employment included in the post-2015 development agenda.

3. Furthermore, several organizations, noting that the report recognized the right to work as universal and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development, strongly advocated the inclusion and mainstreaming of refugees and asylum seekers within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process at the country level as well as United Nations decent-work programmes and initiatives and the overall decent-work efforts of the United Nations system. In addition, programmes aimed at including refugees and asylum seekers within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process should not exclude irregular migrants (i.e., those who are not refugees or asylum seekers), who cannot access fair work and are thereby more vulnerable to human trafficking and/or forced labour. Some organizations observed that, among the agencies assessed as having reached the highest level of mainstreaming for decent work, the work rights of refugees and asylum seekers did not appear to be well represented in their policies, programmes and advocacy efforts, and the evaluation report could have been strengthened by highlighting that gap in the mainstreaming of full and productive employment and decent work by and within the United Nations system.

4. Organizations provided comments on several of the report's recommendations, as noted below.

III. Specific comments on recommendations

Recommendation 5

The governing body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) should request the Director General of ILO to carry out more proactive awareness-raising and training activities among the staff of United Nations system organizations in collaboration with the International Training Centre of ILO (ITC-ILO) and other training units in the United Nations system in the context of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and identify resources in this regard.

5. Organizations supported recommendation 5, especially in view of the great relevance of the decent-work agenda to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The ILO in particular welcomed the recommendation to carry out

proactive awareness and training activities aimed at staff of United Nations system organizations and agreed to bring the issue to the attention of the ILO governing body for consideration.

Recommendation 6

Executive heads of United Nations system organizations should instruct their respective technical units to re-examine their work to identify if there are areas where the decent-work agenda can be linked to their activities and to make existing linkages more explicit. Such organizations may wish to cooperate with ILO for support in this process.

6. Organizations welcomed and supported recommendation 6, although several indicated that, since their mandates did not specifically or directly address the issue of full employment and decent work, they did not carry out direct implementation projects that would enable them to implement policies to achieve the decent-work agenda objectives. Nevertheless, many organizations noted that their work significantly contributed to the sustainable development of human resources, capacity-building and a safe working environment, which in turn could aid the achievement of full employment and decent-work objectives.

Recommendation 7

The Secretary-General should ensure that the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office and the United Nations System Staff College undertake appropriate awareness-raising and provide guidance and training to the resident coordinators and United Nations country team members to further a common understanding of the decent-work agenda in the context of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

7. Organizations welcomed and supported recommendation 7, noting that the decent-work agenda was an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the coordinated policy and programme work of the United Nations development system at the country level. As the lead technical agency, ILO has been developing a series of tools and training sessions to further a common system-wide understanding and approach with regard to the decent-work agenda. In collaboration with the United Nations System Staff College as well as ITC-ILO, the provision of guidance and training will be scaled up in order to enhance broader United Nations system knowledge and capacity.